A short time ago the writer checked the State College collection and found in a box of unidentified Bruchidae quite a few specimens of the species under discussion. These were from both the eastern and western part of the state and go back to the year 1931. This last date is interesting for in 1933 Bridwell and Bottimer[1] described this insect's known distribution in five mid-Atlantic seaboard states. They make no reference to the appearance of this beetle in the United States before 1931. Also they speculate on the possible losses caused by this bruchid on vetch seed in Oregon. It would seem that the hairy-vetch bruchid was getting a foothold on the west coast as early as it was on the east coast.

As noted above wheat is one of the principal crops of Eastern Washington. While sweeping along the edges of wheat fields during May 1949, the writer picked up quite a few specimens of *Malachius aeneus* (L.) As there were none of these in the State College collection, the writer feels that their appearance here may be a rather recent event. If, as suggested by Barber[2], this species is destructive to wheat, then a heavy wheat producing area is already under attack.

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[1]J. C. Bridwell and L. J. Bottimer. The Hairy-Vetch Bruchid, Bruchus brachialis Fahraeus, in the United States, *Journal of Agricultural Research*, vol. 46, no. 8, p. 747. Apr. 15, 1933.

[2]H. S. Barber. A Note on Malachiidae, *Coleopterists' Bull.*, vol. 3, p. 72, 1949.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE VESICATING PROPERTIES OF SPECIES OF PAEDERUS (STAPHYLINIDAE) IN FRANCE

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This note is intended to point out some of the results obtained recently with French species of the genus *Paederus* as regards their ability to produce dermatitis when crushed on the skin.

These beetles have been known for a long time to have this property, which is shared by many species from Europe, Asia, Africa, and America (literature in Allard 1948).

In France very little work has been done on this subject.

Therefore, during the spring and summer of 1949 I worked on this problem with the following results:

1. *Paederus fuscipes* Curt., never tested in France as regards its vesicating properties, gave the classical vesicular dermatitis when crushed on the skin of guinea-pigs and man (in this instance, the writer's forearm).

2. *P. riparius* L. gave the same results on both guinea-pig and man. This species has never been tested before and is thus to be added to the list of the vesicating *Paederus* of the world.

3. *P. littoralis* Grav. is vesicant upon the guinea-pig (its effect on the human skin has already been shown by Allard, 1948).

4. *P. rubrothoracicus* Goeze is also vesicant upon the human skin. It has previously been shown to act on the eye of the rabbit (Netolitzky, 1919).

Adding what was previously known to the present experiments, it is possible to say that out of the 10 species of *Paederus* occurring in France (Corsica included) (Jarrige 1944), four are vesicant for man and other mammals (guinea-pig, for instance). They are: *P. rubrothoracicus* Goeze, *P. littoralis* Grav., *P. riparius* L., and *P. fuscipes* Curt.; *P. limnophilus* Er. and *P. ruficollis* Fabr., were not tested in French territory itself but by Netolitzky (op. cit.) in Central Europe, who found positive results on the eye of the rabbit and the human skin. These results would certainly be the same in France.

The four other species have never been tested because of their scarcity or localization. They are: *P. meridionalis* Fauv. (Corsica), *P. caligatus* Er., *P. baudii* Fairm., and *P. brevipennis* Lac.

Owing to this scarcity, these species, if ever vesicant (and this is most probable), have very little medical importance.

Allard, V. Les Staphylinides vésicants du genre *Paederus*. Thesis M. D. Paris, Foulen Edit., 54 pp., 1 fig. 1948.

Jarrige, J. Les *Paederus* de France. L'Entomologiste, vol. 1, pp. 5-10, 1 fig. 1944.

Netolitzky, F. Eine neue Gruppe blasenziehender Käfer. Zeitschr. ang. Ent., vol. 5, pp. 252-257, 2 figs. 1919.